

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8 are rejected as being anticipated by Nakanishi (USPN 4289297). Claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over Nakanishi as modified by common engineering knowledge. Claim 7 is rejected as being unpatentable over Nakanishi as modified by Schaeffer (US 5876015).

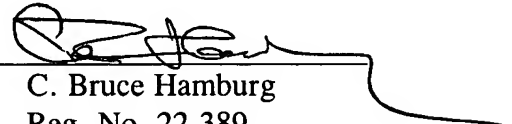
Claim 1 as amended differs from Nakanishi which fails to teach or make obvious that the inner circumference of the body portion has a constant radius because of the illustrated radially inwardly projecting protrusion 3. For the same reason, Nakanishi fails to teach or make obvious “an annular protrusion protruding radially outwardly from an axial center of said outer circumference of said body portion.” Moreover, the prior art fails to teach or make obvious a ratio of a thickness dimension of the body portion from the inner circumference in the stem axial direction to the thickness dimension in the direction perpendicular to the stem axis from the inner circumference which is 1.01:1 to 2:1.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

By


C. Bruce Hamburg
Reg. No. 22,389
Attorney for Applicants

Jordan and Hamburg LLP
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168
(212) 986-2340